## **UTAH COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**



Ralph L. Clegg, E.H.S., M.P.A. *Executive Director*Eric S. Edwards, M.C.H.E.S., M.P.A. *Deputy Director* 

## **PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER**

## **Utah County, Utah**

WHEREAS, on January 21, 2020, the Utah Department of Health ("UDOH") activated its Department of Operations Center in response to the evolving COVID-19 global pandemic. The UDOH recognizes COVID-19 as an imminent threat to the health and safety of the residents of the State of Utah ("Utah"). The UDOH, local health departments, and health and medical partners have activated response plans and protocols to prepare and to minimize the likely community spread of the virus in Utah and its impact on our healthcare resources. These partners have also worked to identify, contact, and test others in Utah potentially exposed to COVID-19 in coordination with the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC"); and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar declared a public health emergency for COVID-19, beginning on January 27, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the CDC has identified the potential health threat posed by COVID-19 both globally and in the United States as "high," and has advised that the person-to-person spread of COVID-19 will continue to occur globally, including within the United States; and

WHEREAS, as of March 17, 2020, the CDC indicates that there are over 167,515 confirmed cases of COVID-19 worldwide with over 3,400 of those cases in the United States, including 51 in Utah, with 2 confirmed cases in Utah County; and

WHEREAS, the UDOH recognizes that confirmed community transmission in the United States significantly increases the risk of exposure and infection to the general public within Utah, which creates an extreme public health risk that may spread quickly; and

WHEREAS, to combat the spread of COVID-19, Utah and various counties, including concurrently with this declaration, Utah County, have declared local public health emergencies; and

WHEREAS, the Utah County Health Department Executive Director / Local Health Officer finds the above facts raise the likelihood of widespread community transmission occurring among the general public and the need for Utah County and the public to work cooperatively and

Page 1 of 5

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proactively to slow the spread of COVID-19 and address any challenges that may arise due to this disease in Utah County; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, Governor Gary Herbert dismissed all Utah public schools for two weeks to combat the spread of COVID-19 (the "School Dismissal"). The School Dismissal means that students will not be allowed to attend school, but staff, faculty, and food services personnel will be allowed to be in the school facility; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, the Utah Department of Health (UDOH), in coordination with the Governor's Office and Utah COVID-19 Community Task Force, issued a Public Health Order ("State Order") to all restaurants, bars, and food service establishments in the state of Utah to suspend dine-in operations and to limit mass gatherings to no more than ten individuals for a period of two weeks; and

WHEREAS, consistent with the purposes and objectives stated in the UDOH State Order and by recommendation of the State, the Utah County Health Department Executive Director / Local Health Officer does hereby find that there is an imminent and proximate threat to public health from the introduction of COVID-19 into Utah County; and

WHEREAS, Section 26A-1-114 of the Utah Code empowers a local health department to "close theatres, schools, and other public places and prohibit gatherings of people when necessary to protect the public health."

THEREFORE, PURSUANT TO UTAH CODE §26A-1-114, BE IT HEREBY ORDERED BY THE UTAH COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR / LOCAL HEALTH OFFICER, RALPH CLEGG, AS FOLLOWS:

**Section 1. General Prohibitions.** Effective immediately, the following prohibitions shall apply throughout Utah County:

- Gatherings of more than ten individuals are prohibited.
- **Section 2.** Restaurants, Bars, and Food Service Establishments. Effective at 11:00pm (MDT) on March 18, 2020, all food service, restaurants, self-serve buffets, salad bars, unpackaged self-serve food services, bars, taverns, nightclubs, private liquor clubs, and saloons in Utah County shall immediately close to members, guests, patrons, customers, and the general public. Notwithstanding the foregoing, food service may operate on a limited basis subject to the following operational restrictions and prohibitions:

- Prohibition of all dine-in food service, whether inside or outside the establishment, and prohibition of admitting members, guests, patrons, and customers inside the establishment except to pick up food for take-out only.
- Curbside take-out, drive-thru food service or pickup service is permitted. Cash
  payments are strongly discouraged. Staff who accept payment shall use cleansing
  measures between each transaction, including using any best practices issued by the
  State Department of Health or the Utah County Health Department. Where possible,
  online (e.g., Venmo, Squarecash, Googleplay, Applepay, and similar payment apps)
  and telephonic credit card transactions are encouraged. Staff who handle cash or
  credit card payments shall not be involved in the preparation, handling, or delivery of
  food.
- For hotel restaurants, food items may only be delivered as room service delivered to the door or curbside services as described above or may be packaged for pick up by the hotel guest as long as the congregation of guests can be avoided.
- Third party food services (i.e., Uber Eats, Door Dash, etc.) are required to observe "no contact delivery" which means these services cannot have person to person contact. All employees of such services must not engage in any delivery services if they present any symptoms of illness.
- Management shall and must ensure on a daily basis that no employee who presents symptoms of illness (e.g., cough, fever, shortness of breath) will be permitted to work.

Due to the evolving situation with the potential spread of COVID-19 virus, violations of these operational restrictions shall result in the immediate closure of individual businesses and establishments to all business activity.

## **Section 3 Recommendations for All Individuals.** Effective immediately.

- All individuals practice good social distancing.
- All individuals should refrain from visiting nursing care facilities, assisted living facilities, and retirement homes except to provide critical assistance.
- All individuals should avoid discretionary travel, shopping trips (other than shopping for food and other essential), and social visits.

• Individuals over the age of 60 and individuals who are immunocompromised should avoid contact with other individuals.

**Section 4. General Protocols for Businesses.** Effective immediately, all establishments shall comply with the following regulations:

- Implement social distancing (six feet) measures in all areas, especially communal areas of the establishment.
- Where feasible, employers should encourage their employees to work remotely from home.
- Employers should encourage employees who are sick to stay at home.
- Staff who have to take cash or credit cards shall use cleansing measures, including best practices issued by the Utah County Health Department, between transactions. Cash transactions are strongly discouraged.
- Management shall and must ensure on a daily basis that no employee that presents symptoms of illness (e.g., cough, fever, shortness of breath) will be permitted to work.
- Members, guests, patrons, or customers who present symptoms of illness shall be excluded from the establishment.
- Management shall post signage which advises patrons of COVID-19 protocols.

**Section 5. Long-Term Care and Other Care Facilities.** Effective immediately, all care facilities shall comply with the following regulations:

 Access to long-term care facilities shall be governed by the guidance issued by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Center for Clinical Standards and Quality

**Section 6.** Additional Requirements. Additional requirements for food establishments and long-term care and other facilities may be issued by the Utah County Health Department and communicated to such establishments and facilities.

**Section 7. Exceptions.** The prohibition of gatherings of more than ten individuals does not apply to grocery stores. Grocery stores are encouraged to remain open to provide necessary food items and other goods.

**Section 8. Duration**. This Order shall remain in effect through April 1, 2020, unless further extended.

**Section 9. Publication**. This Order shall be on file for public inspection with the Utah County Health Department.

We recognize and applaud the many in our communities who are already implementing these recommendations on their own. We recognized the need and effort to address this rapidly evolving pandemic to reduce wherever possible the spread of the Coronavirus in our communities.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** 

March 18, 2020

UTAH COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Ralph Clegg

Utah County Health Department Executive Director / Local Health Officer

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Ben Van Noy

**Utah County Deputy Attorney**